Chief Minister, Clare Martin, and Team NT spokesman, Bruce Fadelli, today said that the fight to bring Timor Sea onshore was progressing and would deliver results for the Territory.

Following a conversation this morning with Foreign Affairs Minister Alexander Downer, Ms Martin said she remained confident that onshore gas, from a pipeline to Bayu-Undan, was secure.

"Phillips’ Bayu-Undan project is a $3 billion development and will result in significant economic benefits - unlike anything seen before - for Territorians and Territory business," she said.

"The liquid stripping phase is already well underway in the Timor Sea.

"Having just returned from East Timor, Mr Downer told me that ratification of the Timor Sea Treaty, giving the project the final green light, was still on track."

Ms Martin also said that while the Sunrise gas field joint venturers were still to publicly announce their position, she was extremely disappointed that Woodside - one of the four partners - had not yet approached the Federal Government to discuss incentives.

"Woodside has failed in its duties to investigate the case for onshore gas from Sunrise in two ways," she said.

"They have not discussed possible incentives with the Federal Government, nor have they investigated a co-operative development with Phillips Petroleum to expand the Wickham Point LNG plant.

Ms Martin said that it appeared that the joint venturers were unable to agree on what to do with the Sunrise gas field and that the prospect of a floating platform, selling into North American markets, was dead in the water.

"The Territory Government has fought hard to show that bringing gas onshore far outweighs the benefits of a floating plant – this view now appears to have caught on," she said.

"Team NT will continue the fight to deliver this valuable resource and we will work harder than ever to facilitate the joint venturers, Territory and Federal Governments working together to deliver this project for the Territory and Australia.

"Timor Sea gas will come onshore to Darwin and we are determined to deliver the maximum possible benefits to Territorians."

Ms Martin said the Territory Government had already allocated millions of dollars to prepare Wickham Point for the Phillips LNG plant and that construction work was well underway.

to the top